

William Ryan Hill

Biography On Pages 144-145

**New York State Men :
biographic studies and character portraits**

Frederick S. Hills, compiler and editor
Published 1910 by Argus Company in Albany

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Frederick Simon Hills

NEW YORK STATE MEN

BIOGRAPHIC STUDIES

AND

CHARACTER PORTRAITS

FREDERICK S. HILLS,
COMPILER AND EDITOR

THE ARGUS COMPANY
ALBANY, N. Y., 1910



A GALLERY of portraits to illustrate a collection of characters! This is to make biography vivid and vital. It is hardly too much to say that the National Portrait Gallery in London is not less interesting than the great National Gallery itself. One reads the life story, often, in a face; sometimes because the picture is true to the life; sometimes because the artist has painted into it his conception of the subject. History really lives before us in the speaking likenesses of the men that made it, with a realness which pages of text do not convey. If the "pen is mightier than the sword," we may claim that the brush of the great painter or the plate of the photographer is mightier than the pen.

WILLIAM CROSWELL DOANE.

(Bishop of Albany.)

Magnum Donum,

North East Harbour, Me.

July 28, 1906.

FOREWORD.

Every work of definite value must have been produced to meet a definite need, and "New York State Men" has its reason for existence in the fact that it furnishes the means of knowing the well-known men whom not to know is to argue oneself unknown. It is planned as an assembly of character-portraits of representative men, with biographic studies of their contributions to the making of the life of to-day. The portraits have been gathered in most cases from original sources, and the collection has no duplicate. The biographical data has been carefully collated and revised and is contemporary to the date of issue. With the rapid growth of the country and the close touch of highly-organized modern life between cities and States, it has become necessary to have at hand a chart of identification and an estimate of personality that is accurate and authoritative. That the historical value of any work of portrait-biography will increase from year to year is unquestioned, and it is confidently believed that this departure in portrait-biography on a scale heretofore unattempted will establish for itself a place of permanent usefulness in the annals of American history, to which New York State has contributed so many eminent personalities. "New York State Men" is designed to be unique among reference books in the character of its statement and the explicitness of its identification. To the public man, politician, lawyer, physician, newspaperman, clergyman, manufacturer, member of corporation or organization or fraternity, to all who must deal with men at first hand, the usefulness of "New York State Men" is especially addressed.

EDITOR.

WILLIAM RYAN HILL

Civil engineer and former special deputy State Engineer, was born in New York City June 21, 1854, a son of John J. and Mary J. (Burnett) Hill. He attended St. John's College, Fordham, and took a special course in civil engineering at Tremont Seminary, Norristown, Pa. From 1873 to 1875 he was employed by the N. Y. C. & H. R. R. and placed in charge of the work of sinking the tracks in Fourth Avenue, from 115th to 132d Streets, New York City. He was later engineer in charge of construction of Riverside Drive, New York City. From 1883 to 1888 he was engaged locating and constructing several railroads. From 1888 to 1900 he was chief engineer of the Syracuse water works, during which time a water system costing four million dollars was installed. In 1900 he became chief engineer of the Croton Aqueduct Commission, New York City. On January 1, 1907, he was appointed special deputy State Engineer by State Engineer Skene. Mr. Hill is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Municipal Engineers of New York City, Central Station Waterworks Association, the New England and the American Waterworks Associations, of which he has served as president; Society of Engineers of Eastern New York, Albany Society of Civil Engineers, and of the Fort Orange Club, of Albany. On July 2, 1874, he married Bella S. Baxter, daughter of Edward and Ann (Lowery) Baxter, of White Plains. They have six children. Address, 97 Columbia Street, Albany.



WILLIAM R. HILL